



KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION

FEBRUARY BOARD NOTES

Volume 20, No. 1 -- Report of the January 31-February 1, 2012, Regular Meeting

COMMENTS FROM DAVID KAREM, KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION CHAIR



One of the items that the Kentucky Board of Education took up at the February 1 session was a Statement of Consideration for the regulation dealing with the accommodations issue in the new testing system, 703 KAR 5:070, Inclusion of Special Populations in the State-Required Assessment and Accountability Programs. A Statement of Consideration brings forward to the board any comments received on a regulation from the public hearing period and allows further changes to the regulation to be considered.

Many of the comments received on this regulation had to do with removing the accommodation of a reader during the reading comprehension test. Much discussion occurred about this item, and the board recognizes that this is an emotionally-charged issue about which many have great passion. However, board members believe that special education students must be given every incentive and chance to become independent readers, and work needs to begin immediately to make this happen through professional development.

Currently, high numbers of special education students in Kentucky are allowed readers on the reading test. This accommodation stays with the student throughout his or her school years. Since there is great pressure on schools to produce results on the state accountability test, there is a negative incentive to keep a student with a reader accommodation to increase test scores. The goal of special education is to make students independent readers and not keep them dependent on having an adult reader throughout their schooling. By eliminating the reader, there is an incentive to make students independent readers. The intent is to raise expectations for creating independent readers.

Additionally, when an adult reader is allowed to read the passage to a student, and then the student answers questions, the measurement is not a reading test, but a listening comprehension test. Kentucky's new K-PREP reading assessment, aligned with national common core standards, is designed to be a reading test. The construct of the reading test is to measure whether a student can read a passage and then answer questions about the reading. By allowing an adult reader for a student, there is no demonstration that the student is an independent reader.

Another factor impacting the board's decision is that the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) does not allow a reader on its reading test. Kentucky students who are allowed a reader on the Kentucky tests must be excluded from the NAEP test. The mismatch between Kentucky's current reader rule and the NAEP rule means significant numbers of students are excluded from NAEP. Kentucky's results on the NAEP test are not comparable, and Kentucky is under federal pressure to bring our accommodations in alignment with the national requirements. Forty-one other states do not allow readers on the reading test.

Educators do need to be aware that the board agreed for Kentucky Department of Education staff to add to the regulation a procedure for students with special circumstances to apply for additional accommodations on the reading test, with the understanding that this would be worded to apply to limited circumstances. Additionally, everyone needs to understand that a reader would be eliminated on the reading comprehension test only. Other tests like mathematics, science and social studies may use a reader if that accommodation is specified for a student, since the test is not measuring reading, but is measuring another subject matter.

The board has been apprised that the timing of the regulatory process will result in accommodation changes contained in this regulation to become effective for the 2012-13 school year. Thus, this spring's testing will continue to be done under the current rules.

If anyone needs further clarification on this issue or any other issues related to this regulation, they can contact Ken Draut or Rhonda Sims at ken.draut@education.ky.gov or rhonda.sims@education.ky.gov.

STATE BOARD APPROVES FINAL CHANGES TO 703 KAR 5:070 AND 703 KAR 5:222

Through comments received via the public hearing process, the Kentucky Board of Education made additional changes to two regulations it had previously considered. Those regulations are 703 KAR 5:070, Inclusion of Special Populations in the State-Required Assessment and Accountability Programs and 703 KAR 5:222, Categories for Recognition, Support and Consequences.

The Statement of Consideration on 703 KAR 5:070 that was approved by the board recommended the board include additional language in the regulation to convey the following:

- send an instructional message about the need to structure the teaching of reading to special populations so that they become independent readers and remove the use of readers on the reading comprehension test only
- add a procedure for students with special circumstances to apply for additional accommodations on the reading comprehension test
- add a statement that students selected to participate in NAEP testing must take the assessment using NAEP administration rules

- insert clarifying statements and updated wording on areas commenters highlighted to make clear the intent of the regulation
- add language that students will be allowed regular time, time and a half, or double time in taking the test

For 703 KAR 5:222, the Statement of Consideration gave approval to include language in the regulation to convey the following:

- add wording to require collaboration in the revision of the Commonwealth School Improvement Plan in Focus and Priority Schools prior to approval of the plan by the district
- correct the wording to reflect the required AMO for school levels and districts classified as Needs Improvement to be an increase of the Overall Score by .07 of a standard deviation annually
- remove wording that required school or district accreditation from a recognized accreditation organization as a requirement to be a Kentucky School or District of Distinction
- include wording to align the regulation with Kentucky's ESEA waiver application

Both regulations will now proceed through the legislative committee review process. These regulations will not be effective until the 2012-13 school year. Thus, with respect to accommodations for state testing, current procedures will be used this spring.

For questions on these regulations, contact Ken Draut at (502) 564-2256 or via e-mail at Ken.Draut@education.ky.gov.

REGULATIONS RELATED TO THE NEW TEACHER AND PRINCIPAL EFFECTIVENESS SYSTEM REVIEWED

Kentucky Department of Education staff brought forward two regulations for the board's review relative to the new teacher and principal effectiveness system. One is an existing regulation, 704 KAR 3:345, Evaluation guidelines for other certified staff, and the other is a new regulation, 704 KAR 3:550, Statewide Teacher and Principal Professional Growth and Effectiveness System.

It was explained that 704 KAR 3:345 is being proposed to only apply to non-classroom certified staff (e.g., guidance counselors, library media specialists) until such time that the new evaluation system is in place for those classifications of certified employees. Therefore, 704 KAR 3:550 would apply to classroom teachers and principals and is being created from the work of the statewide steering committees that are shaping the framework for the new professional growth and evaluation systems.

Both regulations will come back to the board in April for further discussion and consideration of final approval. Their content can be reviewed at:

<http://www.education.ky.gov/Users/spalmer/February%202012%20704%20KAR%203345%20Reg.pdf> and
<http://www.education.ky.gov/Users/spalmer/February%202012%20704%20KAR%203550%20Reg.pdf>

For more information on 704 KAR 3:345 and 704 KAR 3:550, contact Felicia Smith at (502) 564-9850 or via e-mail at Felicia.Smith@education.ky.gov.

HENRY HUNT CHOSEN TO RECEIVE JOSEPH W. KELLY AWARD

Henry Hunt, Chief Operating Officer of Dataseam, was presented with the board's annual Joseph W. Kelly Award. This award recognizes a businessperson or organization that has offered outstanding leadership and service toward promoting school improvement and equity of educational opportunity for Kentucky's children.

Among the reasons cited by the board for selecting Hunt were:

- His leadership at Dataseam in carrying out its mission to "...use technology as a vehicle to advance the commercialization of research, promote ongoing education statewide, and provide next-generation economic opportunity to help provide a brighter future for all Kentuckians"
- Dataseam's placement of over 15,000 computers in 48 school districts across the state for use by students and teachers as well as researchers at the University of Louisville's James Graham Cancer Center
- Dataseam's establishment of scholarships at the University of Louisville and Morehead State University
- His leadership in establishment of programming in teacher professional development to develop the skills needed for digital learning practices, the Visiting Professional Program that places university professors in participating school districts and the availability of the National Institute of Health Supplemental Science Curriculum teacher kits
- His support of the Governor's School for the Arts to create the Dataseam Scholars Program and donate 15 state-of-the-art computers to the school to use in the new media classroom, enabling the students and faculty to work for the first time on a consistent system

For more information on this award or its recipient, contact Mary Ann Miller at (502) 564-3141 or via e-mail at MaryAnn.Miller@education.ky.gov.

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING WERE:

- Amended minutes from the December 7, 2011, meeting
- Appointment of Mark E. Thomas to the State Textbook Commission
- 702 KAR 1:160, School Health Services (Final)

- New District Facility Plans for Clark and Hancock Counties
- All submitted 2011-12 Local District Working Budgets
- 702 KAR 7:065, Designation of Agent to Manage High School Interscholastic Athletics and Revisions in KHSAA Bylaws (Final)

OTHER ITEMS REVIEWED WITH NO ACTION TAKEN WERE:

- Strategic Plan Update
- Hearing Officer's Report on Regulations
- Presentation of the paperless board system by the Kentucky School Boards Association
- Establishing a Kentucky foundation for education innovation
- KDE Employment Report

KBE MEETING DATES

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April 4, 2012	Regular meeting	Frankfort
June 6, 2012	Regular meeting	Frankfort
August 8-9, 2012	KBE Retreat meeting & Regular meeting	Frankfort
October 10, 2012	Regular meeting	Frankfort
December 5, 2012	Regular meeting	Frankfort

For questions on meeting dates, contact Mary Ann Miller at 502-564-3141 or via e-mail at MaryAnn.Miller@education.ky.gov.

The actions described above were taken in open session of the Kentucky Board of Education at the January 31-February 1, 2012, regular meeting, conducted in the State Board Room, Capital Plaza Tower, 1st Floor, Frankfort, Kentucky. This information is provided in summary form, and an official record of the meeting is available on tape in the permanent records of the Kentucky Board of Education, First Floor, Capital Plaza Tower, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. These records are open for inspection Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

For additional information about the Kentucky Board of Education meetings, agendas, minutes or special accommodations needed for attending meetings, contact Mary Ann Miller, Policy Advisor, at (502) 564-3141.

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